



# FINANCIAL AID

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### **ADVENTURES IN EDUCATION**

<http://www.aie.org/>

Although this site is sponsored by the Texas Guaranteed Student Loan Corporation, there is an enormous wealth of information available about planning and paying for college that is relevant for all students and families. You'll find information about college costs, applying for aid, a financial aid calendar, a variety of calculators, scholarships, careers, state education resources, and links to many other Internet sites. The content of this site is also available in Spanish.

### **BACK TO COLLEGE**

<http://www.back2college.com/>

While this site is especially tailored for those adults wanting to return to college, clicking on the Financial Aid link opens up information useful to any potential student. Some of its features include links to scholarships for re-entry students, free scholarship searches, answers to frequently asked questions, and financial aid calculators. There are online discussion forums, opportunities to "Ask the Experts," and a free newsletter.

### **BIGFUTURE from the COLLEGE BOARD**

<https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/>

In addition to an overview of finding a college and financial aid options, this site offers a scholarship search tool that searches more than 2,200 programs for financial aid, scholarships, and internships.

### **COLLEGE ANSWER provided by Sallie Mae**

<http://www.collegeanswer.com/>

Sallie Mae is "the nation's No. 1 financial services company specializing in education." It was originally a government sponsored entity, but it is no longer tied to the federal government. There is a complete range of information presented to help students and parents; you can start with "saving for college" and then move on to "planning to attend college", "paying for college," and "managing your money." There is also a scholarship search tool and a variety of calculators on the site.

### **ESTUDENT LOAN**

<http://www.estudentloan.com/>

Visitors to this site can get comparisons of various student loans and lenders along with a good overview of different types of loans and securing financial aid for college.

### **FAFSA ON THE WEB**

<http://www.fafsa.ed.gov/>

This is the website to file a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). There's step-by-step information on the entire process, a Federal School Code Search tool, and a list of federal and state financial aid deadlines.

## **FASTWEB**

<http://www.fastweb.com/>

This site has information on choosing a college, applying for scholarships, and finding internships and jobs. There is a free online scholarship search available that matches a student's profile with a database of 1.3 million scholarships. Visitors must first create a free profile before using the database.

## **FEDERAL STUDENT AID, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**

<http://www.studentaid.ed.gov/>

Federal Student Aid, a part of the U.S. Department of Education, is the largest provider of student financial aid in the nation. Their site provides very complete assistance on preparing for and funding education beyond high school on this site. Learn about all of the various types of financial aid available from the government and other sources; find out who qualifies for aid, how to apply, and how to manage your loans. This site is also available in Spanish.

## **FINAID! The SmartStudent Guide to Financial Aid**

<http://www.finaid.org/>

Students and parents will find information here on almost every kind of aid available-loans, military aid, federal and state aid, scholarships. There's information about all kinds of specific aid-for international students, for disabled, students, for older students, for minority students, and more. There are a variety of calculators to project college costs, pages devoted to educators looking for information, and frequently asked questions. Click on the "site map" to really see all that's included.

## **GOCOLLEGE**

<http://www.gocollege.com/>

GoCollege brings "useful, unbiased, and up-to-date college related information to students, parents, and education professionals." Information is divided into four main categories: college admissions, financial aid guide, education options, and college survival.

## **KNOWHOW2GO**

<http://www.knowhow2goillinois.org/>

KnowHow2GO Illinois, sponsored by the Illinois Student Assistance Commission, provides easy access to sites with important information and assistance for those planning to attend college. KnowHow2GO.org <http://knowhow2go.org/> offers guidance for middle and high school students who want to go to college. What's Next Illinois [www.whatsnextillinois.org](http://www.whatsnextillinois.org) is a very comprehensive site providing help with college planning, financial aid planning, and career planning; it's one stop for "everything you need to plan, apply, and go to the college or university of your choice."

## **MAPPING YOUR FUTURE**

<http://mappingyourfuture.org/>

A website designed to make college planning easier, Mapping Your Future provides specific resources for middle/high school, undergraduate, and graduate students as well as for parents. Links will lead you to information about college admissions, standardized tests, FAFSA, federal student loans, budgeting, scholarships, and much more.

## **NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF STUDENT FINANCIAL AID ADMINISTRATORS**

<http://www.nasfaa.org/Default.aspx>

Click on the "Students, Parents, Counselors" tab for a variety of information about the financial aid process. State specific information is included.

## **SCHOLARSHIP SCAMS**

<http://www.ftc.gov/bcp/edu/microsites/scholarship/>

The Federal Trade Commission uses this site as a caution to students and parents about scholarship scams.

### **Looking in the library?**

We have a variety of books with information about financing a college education. There are books in our reference collection at **R378.3**, and look for books you can check out in our circulating collection in the same call number—**378.3**. Please be sure to ask for assistance; we're happy to help!